

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please insert the following headings on page 1, before line 4 and after the title of the invention:

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Field of the invention:

Please insert the following heading on page 1, after line 8:

**Description of the Related Art**

Please insert the following heading on page 2, after line 15:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Please insert the following heading on page 2, after line 37:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES OF THE DRAWING**

Fig. 1 represents a micrograph of dissymmetric particles obtained from modified silica particles having a diameter of 100 nm.

Fig. 2 represents a micrograph of dissymmetric particles obtained from modified silica particles having a diameter of 50 nm.

Fig. 3 represents a micrograph of dissymmetric particles obtained from modified silica particles having a diameter of 150 nm.

Fig. 4 represents a micrograph of dissymmetric particles obtained from modified silica particles having a diameter of 80 nm.

Fig. 5 represents a micrograph of surface-modified silica particles having a diameter of 80 nm.

Fig. 6 represents a micrograph of dissymmetric particles obtained after a period of treatment.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS**